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Director of the United States  
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Attn: Maintenance Fee  
2051 Jamieson Avenue, Suite 300  
Alexandria, VA 22314

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Fax to: 571-273-6500

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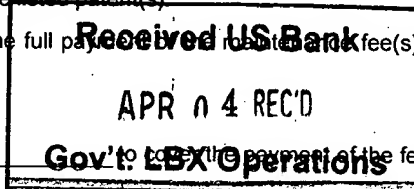
Signature

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Laurie Lane

Enclosed herewith is the payment of the maintenance fee(s) for the listed patent(s).

1. ☒ A check for the amount of \$ 2,125.00 for the full payment of the fee(s) and any necessary surcharge is enclosed.
2. ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is enclosed.
3. ☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_
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\* Information required by 37 CFR 1.366(c) (columns 1 &amp; 2). Information requested under 37 CFR 1.366(d) (columns 3, 4, &amp; 5).

Item	Patent Number*	U.S. Application Number* [e.g., 06/555,555]	Maintenance Fee Amount (37 CFR 1.20(e)-(g))	Surcharge Amount (37 CFR 1.20(h))	Payment Year (select one below)		
					Column 5		
	Column 1	Column 2	Column 3	Column 4	3.5 yrs	7.5 yrs	11.5 yrs
1	6,591,529	09/676,973	1425.00	700.00		X	
2							
3	8:45				04/09/2012 KTRANS	00000001	6591529
4					01 FC:1559		2125.00
5							
Subtotals: Columns 3 & 4							
Total Payment			\$ 2,125.00		<input type="checkbox"/> additional sheets attached for listing additional patents.		

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Respectfully submitted, \*\*

Customer's Signature

Customer's Name

Laurie Lane

Registration Number, if applicable: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone:

406-542-9272 or 406-544-0344

Fax:

Note: All correspondence will be forwarded to the "Fee Address" or to the "Correspondence Address" if no "Fee Address" has been provided. See 37 CFR 1.363.

Payment of small entity fee is appropriate if small entity status still exists, see 37 CFR 1.27(g). To establish small entity status or to change status from small to large entity, a written assertion is required. See 37 CFR 1.27 and 1.33(b).

\*\* WHERE MAINTENANCE FEE PAYMENTS ARE TO BE MADE BY AUTHORIZATION TO CHARGE A DEPOSIT ACCOUNT, BOTH THE NAME AND SIGNATURE OF AN AUTHORIZED USER ARE REQUIRED.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.366. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 5 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA. 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, Attn: Maintenance Fee, 2051 Jamieson Avenue, Suite 300, Alexandria, VA 22314.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

LAURIE LANE

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APR 16 2012

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

March 11, 2012

Director of Petitions  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
2051 Jamieson Avenue, Suite 300  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Concerned Persons,

My name is Laurie Lane and I am the inventor of Patent #6,591,529 - Appl. No.: 09/676,973. I am writing to the office of petitions to please accept late payment of my maintenance fees due to unavoidable delay. I have contacted the USPTO several times and it is my understanding that I have until July 13, 2013 to petition for acceptance for payment of my patent maintenance fees. Please understand that I am not a patent lawyer and the law is complicated. I live in Montana and patent attorneys are scarce. The patent attorney that I was working with has moved and I do not have any record where to reach him, nor could I afford to work with him at this time. As a small independent inventor, I am thankful to have the opportunity to work directly with you.

The persons I spoke with at the USPTO told me to write a letter explaining why I am late with my second maintenance fee. In addition, I was given the amount due and sent a form which I have enclosed.

During this whole economic downturn my business came to a halt and my husband lost his job. My husband looked for a job for two years before finally landing a job with a company out of Great Britain. I have been a self employed commercial photographer for many years and the onslaught of digital photography has made matters worse for those of us who used medium format film. The patent that I developed was to be my retirement so it is vitally important to my families lively hood. It was my hope that we would find work or sell our house soon enough so that I would not be late with the maintenance fees but that just wasn't the case and we were financially incapacitated.

FROM THE DESK OF  
LAURIE LANE

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With the job losses and the economy in a state of flux, you can imagine life was difficult and we ran out of money. We could not get a loan and family helped as much as they could. Bills kept piling up and we were being threatened from the bank about our home. They said they would help in regards to our mortgage but really they were no help at all. We were told one thing only to have it change as people left from the bank and relationships with people we trusted were no longer there. I sold most of my equipment just so that we could eat. It is humiliating to have to tell you this and I'm not looking for pity but you need to know the severity of our situation. We couldn't even pay for basic needs. All I could think of was that my patent fees were due but after speaking with the people at the USPTO I never gave up hope. We put our home up for sell during a time that houses were not selling, as many people were in the same dire situation we were. It took us over a year to sell the house and we had to price it to sell or lose it all together. We lived in a state of fear. As difficult as it was to sell the beautiful log house we built ourselves and our kids grew up in, we managed to find a buyer just in the nick of time. We came so very close to losing everything we had worked so hard for. I knew that if we lost our home to foreclosure that I would never be able to pay my maintenance fees and I would lose my patent. The stress from all of this caused complications with my health and the medical bills are endless. It has taken a long time to realize all that we have been through and it will take a long time to crawl out from our debt. However, I am happy today to be able to send payment for my maintenance fees plus penalties in hopes that I will be able to protect all my hard work.

I have spent many years and much money developing my patent and have built an entire company concept around it. Please accept my humble apologies for this unavoidable delay. I am appealing you to accept my maintenance fee plus penalties so that I may continue developing my company and products.

With Respect,

  
Laurie Lane